

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Higgins, would you like to close?

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. So, as I say, it took me two years to get the nursing home bill passed. Took me a heck of a fight, too, on the child pornography bill, but I kept working, like I'm working today, and it got passed, as did the nursing home bills. Today I may fail on these amendments, but I'll bet I don't fail to get somebody moving next year to correct this tragedy or this travesty of justice whereby the poor and the middle income, not only support insurance companies with outrageous rates, but by paying their taxes also. I remember the child pornography bill and the fight I had with our illustrious candidate for Congress, Peter Hoagland, Chairman of the Judiciary Board, wouldn't let my child pornography bill out of committee, lied to the committee, told them, Higgins doesn't want the bill out of committee until she has an attorney look at it. You know what the truth was? Hoagland told my aide he had an attorney friend he wanted to look at it, and then when he got his opinion he'd put it to a vote of the committee. Now that says something about Hoagland. The first thing it says to me is, as an attorney, he was too dumb himself to understand it, I guess. The second thing was the fact that he lied to the committee, because certain committee members told me that he said that. Can you imagine me saying, hold up my child pornography bill because I've got an attorney that wants to look at it? Don't you think I was smart enough to give it to somebody before I even filed that bill? I did, I gave it to Dr. Richard Shugrue at Creighton, and I asked him to read it with a fine-tooth comb and see if he could find anything unconstitutional in it, and there was nothing. But it was a battle, and it was a battle with our other congressional candidate, Chris Abboud. He and Hoagland, both, put the committee amendments on to lower the penalties for those who use little children to make pornographic movies and pornographic posters and pornographic pictures. And they kept me from raising the age up to 18 and keeping it at up to 16, so that you could use a 16-year-old-boy or girl to make a movie of the vilest types of sexual acts you could describe, even though I told them that the federal government put the age at 18. Well they had their arguments, like well, gee, whiz, what if our 17-year-old-boy gets caught with some type of a pornographic picture in his pocket. Well the bill was very explicit, it told how the picture had to denote a child in a sexually explicit act.